



Criminal Division

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*Mr. Wray frequently speaks from notes and may depart from the speech as prepared.

Good evening. Welcome to Washington, and to this 8th Annual IAP Conference.

This conference comes at an important juncture in time, nearly two years after the deadly terrorist attacks of September 11th. As we have been reminded since September 11 – by the attacks in Bali, Mombasa, Saudi Arabia, Casablanca, and elsewhere; most recently in Jarkarta, for example – the fight against terrorism is a fight common to us all. Just as the United States experienced an international outpouring of support and sympathy in our response to September 11th, we express our support and sympathy to terrorism’s victims throughout the world. Terrorism is a global phenomenon, and the fight against terrorism requires worldwide efforts to prevent, disrupt and defeat it. This week’s conference represents an important effort to enhance our ability, as prosecutors, to prevail against the common adversary of terrorism.

Preventing terrorist attacks is today’s imperative – for prosecutors, as well as others in law enforcement, intelligence, and other areas of government. Anticipating and thwarting terrorist activities before they become tragic realities can only be accomplished through the cooperation of the entire international community. As the imperative has moved to prevention, the responsibilities of prosecutors have significantly changed. Traditionally, our role has been reactive, focused on punishing those responsible for past events. In the war on terrorism, prosecutors around the globe have now been tasked with the additional responsibility of prevention and of availing themselves of every possible tool under the law to that end.

Our Attorney General, John Ashcroft, has often said that “in this global war on terror, the best friend of prevention is information, and the best friends of information are cooperation, coordination and collaboration.” We have all come a long way since September 11th in working together to enhance information sharing and to promote international cooperation and coordination. And of course, reinforcing mutual cooperation in transnational crimes, such as terrorism, is one of the primary goals of the IAP.

At our Department of Justice, we have undertaken major initiatives to enhance cooperation between the Department and foreign prosecutors and investigators. One initiative matches U.S. prosecutors from our Counterterrorism Section with our counterparts in specific countries of interest in the terrorism area. These prosecutors work together on terrorism investigations and prosecutions of mutual interest. They learn about each other’s system for investigating and prosecuting terrorist planning, financing and other activities. They share information about their respective cases and facilitate mutual legal assistance.

Since September 11, unprecedented cooperation between the Department and our

counterparts around the globe has led to significant successes. We have worked closely with our German colleagues in criminal proceedings involving Hamburg cell members. As you may know, in February, Mounir el Motassadeq was convicted in Germany of being an accessory to the more than 3,000 murders on September 11. Close cooperation with Colombia and other South American nations has led to charges being brought against key members of the FARC and AUC – the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia – striking at the heart of the nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism. Formal requests for evidence, including bank records and witness interviews, have been timely granted by some European nations as a result of landmark information-sharing agreements, helping to freeze the assets of terrorists and terrorist financiers. These are just a few examples that highlight the importance of information sharing and transnational cooperation.

These same examples also highlight the multifaceted face of terrorism, which can be detected in the drug arena, in the area of financing and in the use of the Internet and computers generally. In recent years, we have become increasingly aware that important terrorist-related information can first come to the attention of an investigator or cross the desk of a prosecutor as part of an ordinary criminal investigation. Terrorist financing, for instance, is often linked to seemingly routine criminal activity. Crimes such as identification and document fraud, visa fraud, and cigarette tax avoidance contribute to terrorism and to the viability of terrorist cells. In recent years, the U.S. has often detected terrorist cells initially through investigations into these types of activities, and has pursued criminal charges of this nature against individuals affiliated with terrorist groups.

Vigilance and expertise is required of all prosecutors to ensure that terrorist elements are detected – through commission of routine crimes and otherwise. This week's conference focuses on the terrorists' presence and use of illegal and legal means to accomplish their universally condemned ends – and on the use of the rule of law to thwart and prevent those ends.

During this conference, we will be sharing our experiences and our expertise so that we all may benefit and learn from one another. As prosecutors, we face common problems in the global fight against terrorism. New issues constantly arise that challenge us all. In the end, it will be our resolve as prosecutors to be vigilant, creative, and cooperative in the fight against global terrorism that will lead us, together, to overcome international terrorism. I hope you all enjoy the conference. I am confident that we will learn from one another as we strive together to find the most effective weapons available to us as prosecutors to confront this common foe. And I know that we will prevail.

Thank you.